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John Bel Edwards, Governor  
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**Office of Workers' Compensation Administration**  
Second Injury Board

June 30, 2016

Louisiana Board of Ethics  
Attn: Haley Williams  
P.O. Box 4368  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

**HAND DELIVERED**

In re: Ethics Opinion Request

Dear Ms. Williams:

As the Director of the Office of Workers' Compensation Administration (OWCA) I am requesting an advisory opinion concerning a possible employment prohibition. As the Director I have a direct interest in the application of the Governmental Ethics Code provisions and its effect on this office and employees. Specifically, I would like to know whether there is a prohibition for an Assistant Attorney General to accept the position of Executive Director of the Second Injury Board (SIB).

By way of background, the OWCA contracts with the Attorney General's office for the legal services of three (3) attorneys. These attorneys are known as Inter-Agency Transfers. The attorneys handle all litigation appeals of the SIB and provide additional legal assistance to the office as needed.

Currently, the position of Executive Director of the SIB is vacant. Cf. L.S.A.-R.S. 23: 1375, et seq. Since the position is head of a state board and under our agency, it is considered public employment. The agency desires to consider one of the aforementioned Assistant Attorneys General for the Executive Director position. However, I want to know in advance if the attorney would be prohibited from accepting this position due to the nature of the current attorney-client relationship. The attorney is aware of this opinion request.

Additionally, the statute regarding appointment of the Executive Director provides, in pertinent part, that the appointee "shall devote full time to his duties and may not accept or engage in additional employment of any kind." Does this language prohibit the appointee from performing other duties as assigned, within the agency, that may not relate directly to his/her duties as SIB Director and may the appointee continue to engage in litigation on behalf of the SIB Board?

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 225.342.7561. With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

(Sheral Kellar, Director

Office of Workers' Compensation Administration

cc file